

**Crow Hazardous  
Fuel Reduction  
Project**

**30-Day Objection  
Period**

The Malheur National Forest, Emigrant Creek Ranger District, is releasing the Crow Hazardous Fuel Reduction Project Environmental Assessment (a Healthy Forest Restoration Act project) for a 30-day objection period. The project area is Emigrant Creek watershed, Crowsfoot Creek-Emigrant Creek, Whiskey Creek-Emigrant Creek, and Bear Canyon Creek sub-watersheds, within Harney County. The project is identified in the Harney County Community Wildfire Protection Plan as a WUI (Wildland Urban Interface). The objectives are to (1) reduce hazardous fuel loadings to alter fire behavior and move the area towards conditions that will allow fire to play a more frequent and natural role on the landscape while exhibiting historical fire effects from burning at low to moderate intensities during planned and unplanned ignitions, and (2) salvage harvest recently killed trees that are surplus to other resource needs in order to reduce hazardous fuels and capture the economic value of those dead trees. Emigrant Creek Ranger District Ranger Joshua Giles is the Responsible Official for this project.

Alternative 3 has been identified as the Preferred Alternative. Alternative 3 would reduce hazardous fuels on up to 28,000 acres of forested stands in the project area with the use of commercial and non-commercial treatment activities. Prescribed fire would

also be utilized on up to 31,060 acres to remove excess fuel accumulations and reduce the risk of large stand-replacement fires. Forest road activities are proposed as connected actions and include road maintenance and use, temporary road construction, and confirmation of previously administratively closed roads.

This proposed hazardous fuels reduction project is subject to the objection process pursuant to 36 CFR 218, subpart A and C. It is not subject to the notice, comment, and appeal procedures found at 36 CFR 215 (36 CFR 218.3). Objections, including attachments, may be filed with the Reviewing Officer (Malheur National Forest, Forest Supervisor Craig Trulock), Attn: 1570 Appeals and Objections, by regular mail at P.O. Box 909, John Day, Oregon 97845, by fax to (541)575-3001, or by hand-delivery to Malheur National Forest Supervisor's Office, 431 Patterson Bridge Rd., John Day, Oregon 97845. Hand deliveries can occur between 8:00 AM and 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday except federal holidays. Electronic objections, in acceptable [plain text (.txt), rich text (.rtf) or Word (.doc)] formats, may be submitted electronically to objections-prw-malheur@usda.gov with Subject: OBJECTION: Crow Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project. E-mails submitted to addresses other than the ones listed above or in formats other than those listed above or containing viruses will be rejected. It is the responsibility of the objector to confirm receipt of objections submitted by electronic mail. For electronically mailed

objections, the sender should normally receive an automated electronic acknowledgement from the agency as confirmation of receipt. If the sender does not receive an automated acknowledgement of receipt, it is the sender's responsibility to ensure timely receipt by other means.

Objections will be accepted only from those who have previously submitted written comments specific to this project during scoping (36 CFR 218.7). The objection including attachments must be filed within 30 days of the date of publication of the legal notice in the Blue Mountain Eagle and Burns Times Herald. Notices of objection must meet the specific content requirements of 36 CFR 218.7. Incorporation of documents by reference shall not be allowed (36 CFR 218.7(c)). The publication date of this notice is the exclusive means for calculating the time period to file an objection (36 CFR 281.9(a)). Those wishing to object should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source. Issues raised in objections must be based on previously submitted specific written comments regarding the proposed project or activity and attributed to the objector, unless the issue is based on new information that arose after the opportunities for comment. The burden is on the objector to demonstrate compliance with this requirement for objection issues.

Objection to this Environmental Assessment and Draft Decision Notice must be in writing and must be fully consistent with 36 CFR 218.7. The objector must provide sufficient nar-

rative description of those aspects of this proposed project addressed by the objection, specific issues and suggested remedies to resolve the objection. At a minimum the objection must include the objectors name and address with telephone number if available, a signature or other verification of authorship, identification of a lead objector if multiple names are listed on the objection, and the name of the project being objected to, the name and title of the Responsible Official and Forest and Ranger District on which the project will be implemented.

The Responsible Official may not issue a decision for this hazardous fuel reduction project until the Reviewing Officer has responded to all pending objections. When no objections are filed within the 30-day period, the decision may occur on, but not before, the fifth business day following the end of the objection-filing period.

The Environmental Assessment and Draft Decision Notice is available on the internet at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=57288>

For further information contact Joshua Giles at the Emigrant Creek Ranger District Office, 265 Highway 20 South, Hines, Oregon 97738 or at (541) 573-4300.

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